

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An operating mechanism for extending a slide-out section of a vehicle, said operating mechanism comprising;

a support secured to the vehicle having support structures spaced apart horizontally;

5 at least one pair of rail members connected to the slide-out section, one rail member moveably mounted to each of the horizontally spaced apart support structures to extend and retract horizontally;

10 a pair of linear intermeshing members, each linear intermeshing member being connected to one of the rail members and being engageable by a pinion having a rotary axis in a plane that is generally perpendicular to the rail member to which the intermeshing member is connected;

a pair of rotary engagers, one rotary engager being rotatably mounted to mesh with each linear intermeshing member;

15 a pair of anti-friction members, at least one anti-friction member mounted to support each rail member in a direction away from the associated rotary engager as the rail member is extended and retracted; and

a shaft connecting the rotary engagers to rotate together so as to synchronize movement of the rail members with respect to the support structures.

2. The operating mechanism of claim 1, wherein the anti-friction members are rollers rotatably mounted to the support and engaging bottom surfaces of the rail members.

3. The operating mechanism of claim 2, wherein the rollers define two roller surfaces, one on each side of the associated linear intermeshing member.

4. The operating mechanism of claim 3, wherein there are two pairs of rollers, each pair of rollers mounted so that the associated linear intermeshing member is disposed between one pair of rollers.

5. The operating mechanism of claim 1, wherein the rotary engagers have teeth.

6. The operating mechanism of claim 5, wherein the linear intermeshing members have teeth meshing with the teeth of the rotary engagers.